



# Alternate Channel

*The newsletter for and about the members of the*  
**LOUDOUN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SYSTEM**

**AUGUST 2005**



Ashburn, Va., June 21, 2005 -- Under Secretary Michael D. Brown encourages fire fighters to stay fit and be safe on National Stand Down Day for Firefighter safety and health. Behind him, Lto R, US Fire Administrator R. David Paulison, International Assoc. of Fire Chiefs President Robert DiPoli, Loudoun County Deputy Fire Chief Jack Brown. See Story on Page 2.

Photo By Bill Koplitz/FEMA

## Alternate Channel

is a monthly publication for members, families and supporters of the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue system produced by the Loudoun County Department of Fire-Rescue Services.

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### **Alternate Channel**

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### **Deadline Submission Date:**

Submissions for the Alternate Channel issues are due by the first business day of the previous month.

Example:

May 1st for June Issue

### **Company Reporters:**

- Co. 1 J.B. Anderson, &  
Ian Buchanan
- Co. 2 Rick Reaves
- Co. 3 Buddy Owens
- Co. 4 Jack Frear
- Co. 5 Jim Reed
- Co. 6 Lauren Law
- Co. 7 Jeannie Cooper
- Co. 8 William D. Schwartz
- Co. 9
- Co.10 Frank Fitchett
- Co.11 David Short
- Co.12 Mike Senate
- Co.13 Marie Householder
- Co.14 Sue Johnson
- Co.15 Wilma Grant
- Co.16 Jim Dunagin
- Co.17 Rodney Krone, Jr.  
E.C.C. Janet Maurer

## **FEMA Chief, USFA Chief, IAFC President Visit Ashburn Co. 6 for Firefighter Stand Down Day**

Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Defense for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) and head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), joined with Chief R. David Paulison, administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration and Chief Bob DiPoli, president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs in lauding Loudoun County career and volunteer fire/rescue professionals on National Firefighter Stand Down Day on June 21.

Brown joined the heads of 20 organizations in the first-ever National Stand Down Day for Firefighter Health and Safety. As Under Secretary of EP&R, Brown oversees the U.S. Fire Administration.

"Too many firefighters are being injured or killed in the line of duty and when they return to the firehouse," Brown told the career and volunteer personnel gathered at Station 6 in Ashburn, referring to the 58 line-of-duty deaths among firefighters so far this year. "So many of these deaths could have been prevented by firefighters learning about health and safety, training in health and safety and applying healthy and safe practices whether on the fireground, at the fire station or when they go home."

Mr. Brown and chiefs Paulison and DiPoli met with LCFR Chief Joseph Pozzo, Ashburn Volunteer Fire-Rescue Chief Steve Johnson, LCFR Captain James Williams and Ashburn FF/EMT Todd Bevans during their visit. They heard the gripping story of Captain Williams' recent injury during a house fire as he explained to colleagues the importance of fireground safety. FF/EMT Bevans provided a demonstration of safety equipment used of the fireground. Mr. Brown and the chiefs all mentioned how impressed they were at Loudoun County's commitment to continued training and personnel safety.

The initiative, led by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, called for firefighters on all shifts to put aside routine duties like alarm inspections and building maintenance for one shift. Fire departments nationwide still answered all emergency calls, but when there were no emergency calls, firefighters concentrated their efforts on being healthier and safer on and off the job. The National Fire Protection Association cites more than 78,000 firefighter injuries annually. Firefighter injury and death rates have remained relatively constant over the past several years, despite monumental improvements in technology and equipment. In a given year, about half the line-of-duty deaths are from heart-related illnesses. Another 25 percent are from accidents including motor-vehicle accidents.

"Firefighters are being killed at an alarming rate. The fire service simply cannot continue to do business as usual when so many of its own are dying," said IAFC President Chief Bob DiPoli. "We are conducting the stand down to raise awareness of the need for increased vigilance toward firefighter safety."

A stand down is a method used by the military to correct an issue that has been identified as a problem throughout its ranks.

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## COMPANY NEWS

### Ashburn Fire Rescue EXPLORER Post 1666

#### Winners all!

Members of the Ashburn Volunteer Fire Department Explorer Post 1666 "brought home the bacon" when they returned from the 2005 National Fire/Emergency Services Exploring Competition hosted at the Brayton Fire Training Field at Texas A & M. University, College Station Texas, June 20 - 24. Members of the Post that made the trip included Captain Donesha Robinson, Lt. John Ayres, Lt. Stephen Bower, Brian Jang, Ryan McKigney, Nathan Lewis, Chaz Moxley, Hillary Pitts. They were accompanied by Advisors Barbara Murphy, Stan Murphy, and Max Triola.

The team of Captain Donesha Robinson, Lt. Stephen Bower, Nathan Lewis and Brian Jang earned a second place trophy in Search and Rescue Team Competition. They entered a dark, smoke filled home wearing full bunker gear and "on air" breathing thru the SCBA apparatus and successfully rescued a "baby." Stephen Bower earned third place when he entered a timed individual competition in SCBA, correctly donning bunker gear including air breathing equipment. Approximately 100 Explorers competed in this individual event

The competition is held every other year and this session attracted over 750 Explorers and Advisors from across America. A generous grant from the Allstate



And the team receiving their award from Teams coordinator of the Texas Engineering Extension Service, Charlie Ashburn. From L-R; Mr. Ashburn, Captain Donesha Robinson, LT. Stephen Bower, Nathan Lewis, and Brian Jang.



The two teams awaiting "dispatch for the first of the competitions; Nathan Lewis, Post Captain Donesha Robinson, Brian Jang, LT. Stephen Bower, Post Advisor Max Triola, Chaz Moxley, Hillary Pitts, Ryan McKigney, Lt. John Ayres.



Lt. Stephen Bower demonstrating award winning technique.

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## SEPTEMBER 2005

### Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meetings of the Loudoun County Fire & Rescue System

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Company 15	2	3
4	5 Companies 1,3,5,6,11,16	6 BLS Committee	7 Companies 13 & 17	8	9	10
11 Company 14	12 Companies 2,7,8,9,12	13 Rescue Chiefs	14 Company 10 R&R Committee	15	16	17
18	19 Company 1 ALS Committee	20 EMS Council	21 Fire Council	22	23	24
25	26 Companies 4 & 8	27 Fire-Rescue Commission	28	29	30	

## TRAINING

AHA CPR-Healthcare Provider (6 classes)  
Sat. August 20, 2005  
Sun. August 28, 2005  
Sat. October 15, 2005  
Sun. December 4, 2005

PALS- Pediatric Adv. Life Support  
August 13-14, 2005

First Responder  
August 13-Sept. 21, 2005

EMT-Enhanced  
August 23, 2005

EMT-Enhanced Refresher  
September 8-25, 2005

### Service Plan Implementation

The combined Fire and Rescue Service Plan Process and Timeline for Board Supervisors Adoption are as follows (Date & Milestone):

June 20, 2005-*Proposed Service Plan reviewed by the Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee*

June 21, 2005-*Proposed Service Plan transmitted to the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Commission*

June-August 2005-*Proposed Service Plan reviewed by the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Commission and the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Companies*

July-August 2005-*Proposed Service Plan Community/Volunteer Company Meetings (Special Meetings)*

August 24, 2005-*Proposed Service Plan adopted by the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Commission (Special Meeting – August 24, 2004, Training Center-Auditorium 1 at 7:00 P.M.)*

September 7, 2005-*Proposed Service Plan adopted by the Fire and Rescue Commission transmitted, reviewed and endorsed by the Loudoun County Public Safety Committee (Special Meeting)*

September 20, 2005-*Proposed Service Plan transmitted, reviewed and endorsed by the Loudoun County Finance/Government Services Committee*

October 4, 2005-*Proposed Service Plan transmitted, reviewed and adopted by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors*

October 2005-January 2006-*FY 2007 Budget and CIP Projects Based on Adopted Service Plan Prepared by the Combined Fire and Rescue System*

The Proposed Service Plan is available in the website under the Dept of Fire and Rescue, Fire and Rescue Commission and Hot Spot.



**PER 225 Law Enforcement Response to WMD–Operations Level Train-the-Trainer**  
Date– August 16-18 T-TH, 8AM-5PM, Prince William County Public Safety Academy  
**PER 210 Public Works: Planning for and Responding to a Terrorism/WMD Incident**  
Date–August. 30–Sept 1 T-TH, 8AM-5PM, READI – Ashburn, VA  
To register please send an email to [readi411@gwu.edu](mailto:readi411@gwu.edu).

## **THE 411 FROM THE 911**

**By Janet Maurer**

When an opening became available for a Supervisor position in the ECC, several Dispatchers and CTOs applied. Interviews were conducted and Ricky Alford was chosen for the position. He happily accepted!

Ricky was born in 1957, in the rural town of Thomasville, North Carolina. The middle child of three, he graduated high school and joined the Navy. As Chief Cryptologic Technician of Communications, Ricky served our country for over 21 years. With a strong desire to also serve at a community level, he joined the Kempsville (VA) Rescue Squad. An EMT for 7 years, he continued his education and practiced as a Shock Trauma Technician for an additional 8 years, earning his Life Time Membership with the Squad.

After retiring from the Navy, in 1996, Ricky went to work for Virginia Beach Police Department in the ECC. As a Dispatcher, he handled all 911 calls for Police, Fire, and Rescue. In 2000, he married Mary Beth and gained a wonderful 5 year old step-son Jeffrey. Wishing to be closer to her mother, they packed up and moved to Northern Virginia.

With such an extensive background in Communications, it was only natural that Ricky would want to again pursue that career in his new stomping ground. So, in November 2000, he accepted em-



ployment with LCFR as a Dispatcher in the ECC. In 2003, he received recognition for his excellent call-taking abilities during an incident. A child, in Lovettsville, had been kicked in head by a horse. Ricky provided pre-arrival instructions and kept the boy's mother calm until EMS could arrive. Then, in 2004, he was invited to attend the Valor Awards. At that ceremony, he received the Chairman's Award from the Chamber of Commerce. The Chairman's Award was for the assistance he provided to a Loudoun County Sheriff's Deputy. The Deputy was taking his wife to the hospital to deliver their baby, but they didn't quite make it. Instead, the officer pulled off the road, used his nextel to alert the LCSO dispatch of the situation, and Ricky talked the Deputy through delivery of the baby over the nextel. He proudly displays the stork he

received from Senior Staff on his LCFR ball cap.

July 2004 brought him a promotion to Communications Training Officer and his additional promotion, to Supervisor, took effect in April 2005. Not only does Ricky supervise Team 3, he also works Over Time to help fill staffing levels on other shifts.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with Mary Beth and her now 10 year old son, Jeffrey. Jeffrey is very active in **baseball** and Ricky is always there to cheer him on. Ricky is also very active in his church.

As an avid supporter of the ECC, Ricky said that his driving force is that he "enjoys doing the job and helping people." When asked about his future plans he replied that he "plans to retire from LCFR."

**CONGRATULATIONS  
RICKY!**

***A BIG THANK YOU for the articles!  
Please keep the articles & photos coming!  
E-mail Attached Articles & Photos to: [frust@loudoun.gov](mailto:frust@loudoun.gov)***

FEMA Visit  
Continued from Page 2

"The public needs to understand the importance of a safe and healthy fire service, both career and volunteer," said Chief Paulison. "Our goal here today is to ensure that every firefighter goes home after every call."

Brown said he hopes the focus on safety continues.

"We're asking fire departments to spend one day focusing on safety and health, but we really want this to become a year-round concentration on safety," he said. "We don't want to the energy and momentum we're creating to end in a couple of weeks or a month. Safety is our constant job. Our communities expect you to come to work at the beginning of every shift and your families need you to come home at the end of every shift."

Calling all Loudoun Fire & EMS Members:

I am assembling a history of Sterling Rescue and am seeking historical information and photographs from 1964 thru 2005. Special event highlights, newsworthy stories, anything which helped the squad grow, humorous anecdotes, new vehicles, etc. If you can help in any way, or are available for a few minutes to discuss or relate a special memory, please contact me at 703-856-2566 or by e-mail at [geezer15@mindspring.com](mailto:geezer15@mindspring.com).

Regards, Joe Ellis, Sterling Rescue, Special Project Officer



Under Secretary Michael D. Brown meets and shakes hands with Loudoun County Fire Rescue Captain James Williams as Virginia Division of Fire Programs Instructor Melvin Byrne (center) looks on during a ceremony honoring firefighters on National Stand Down Day for Firefighter Safety and Health. In background US Fire Administrator R. David Paulison meets with other Loudoun County firefighters. Photo By Bill Koplitz/FEMA Photo



Ashburn, Va., June 21, 2005 -- Under Secretary Michael D. Brown watches as Firefighter/EMT Todd Bevans demonstrates safety equipment on National Stand Down Day for Firefighter Safety and Health. From l to r, International Assoc. of Fire Chiefs President Robert DiPoli, Ashburn Virginia Volunteer Fire Rescue Chief Steve Johnson, US Fire Administrator R. David Paulison, Under Secretary Michael D. Brown. In the foreground Paul Luke of FEMA tapes the demonstration. Photo By Bill Koplitz/FEMA Photo

**NEED ARTICLES & PHOTOGRAPHS  
(DIGITALS NOW PREFERRED)**

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## Our Neighbors: The Mount Weather Fire and Rescue Department – FEMA

### By Mike Sanders, Ashburn Fire and Rescue

The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) has a large complex and facility in Bluemont, Virginia known as Mount Weather. This government fire department protects the Mount Weather complex and runs mutual aid calls in Loudoun and Clarke counties as Station 21.

The facility is operated by FEMA and house's FEMA's National Emergency Coordinating Center. The complex is located at the border of Loudoun and Clarke counties on Route 601, which runs between busy Route 7 and Route 50. The Mount Weather Fire and Rescue Department protects approximately 570 acres of cleared and wooded land, approximately 125 structures, and three heliports.

Current staffing of the department consists of 29 personnel, which includes two Assistant Chiefs, four Captains, four firefighters/inspectors, and eighteen firefighter/HAZMAT technicians, all under the leadership of Fire Chief Frank Davis. Current daily staffing is nine a day. The department will soon be expanding its staffing to thirty five.

In recent years the Mount Weather FD has placed into service a variety of unique fire and rescue apparatus. Today's roster includes an engine, a ladder truck, a HAZMAT unit, a brush unit, two ambulances, a confined space unit, a SERV/command unit, and several electric vehicles. The majority of the equipment is painted either red or red and white. The ambulances are painted white with a red stripe.

Engine 21 and HAZMAT 21 were both purchased at the same time from Pierce's Florida facility and placed into service in late 2004. Engine 21 is Mount Weather's only pumper and is a 2004 KenWorth T300/Pierce that has a 1250 gpm pump and carries 1000 gallons of water. This unique four-door unit carries a complete Hurst tool system as well as normal engine company equipment. This KenWorth replaced a 1986 Pierce Arrow 4x4 pumper.

Acquired at the same time as Engine 21, HAZMAT 21 is also built by Pierce on a 2004 KenWorth T300. Complete with roll up doors, this HAZMAT is equipped for all levels of hazardous materials leaks, spills, and decon operations.

Ambulance 21-2 was also placed into service during late 2004 and is a 2003 Ford E450/Wheeled Coach ambulance.

Truck 21 is a 2002 Emergency One Cyclone II quint that has a 75' rear mount aerial, 2000 gallon per minute pump, 500 gallons of water, and 40 gallons of class B foam. Truck 21 carries an assortment of ventilation equipment, forcible entry tools, as well as a Hurst rescue tool. The quint will also act as a back up engine in the event that Engine 21 is out of service.

Other apparatus on the Mount Weather roster include a 1997 Dodge Ram brush truck, a 2001 Ford E450 4x4/Wheeled Coach ambulance, a 1999 Chevrolet van that is equipped with a variety of equipment for confined space rescue situations, and a 2004 Chevrolet Suburban that operates as a SERV or command unit. Two electric powered units are set up as an EMS response vehicle and the other as a fire vehicle. The fire vehicle is built on a 2003 Global Electric Motorcar (GEM), which is a Daimler Chrysler Company. This unique response vehicle is about the size of a large golf cart and is set up with air packs, extinguishing agent, folding ladder, and other equipment.

I have always found that the fire and rescue department's located "Behind the Fence" often have very unique and interesting apparatus. Mount Weather's fire apparatus fit that description. Because of the security of these locations, often we do not have the opportunity to see the apparatus. I want to thank Fire Chief Frank Davis, Assistant Fire Chief Steve Thomas, and the entire crew that worked on May 14, 2005. They took the time and effort to move around the apparatus for photographs and provide much of the information used for this article.





### **New Delivery—Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department**

Information provided by Jack Frear: Station 4

Photo by Mike Sanders: Station 6/23

The Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department has placed into service a new Ambulance 4-2. Painted a nice deep red with white lettering, Ambulance 4-2 is a 2004 Ford E450 4x4 that was built by Wheeled Coach, who is the largest ambulance builder in the industry.

### **NOTICE OF CHANGE**

**Reports of injuries/illnesses are now to be submitted to Safety Officer Bob Swarthout, at LCFR.**

**Initial notification of injury/illness are to be e-mailed to [rswartho@loudoun.gov](mailto:rswartho@loudoun.gov) within 24 hours of injury/illness. Injury Report forms are available on website.**

Explorer Post 1666-Winners!  
Continued from Page 3:

Foundation, and funds earned by the Explorers paid for the trip.

The Post meets on Wednesday night at 7 PM during the summer at the Ashburn Fire House on Ashburn Rd. The Explorer Post is accepting new members throughout the summer. If interested call AVFRD Monday thru Friday 94 PM at 703 729-0006 or come to the meeting.



*Congratulations!*